

# California Field Crop Review



Frequency: Monthly  
Released: January 19, 2000

(USPS 598-270)  
VOL. 21 NO. 1



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Acreage, Yield, and Production .....                   | 1   |
| Cotton -- Winter/Durum Wheat Seeding -- Hay Stocks ... | 2   |
| Rice Production and Stocks -- Grain Stocks .....       | 3   |
| Fall Potato Production and Stocks .....                | 4   |
| Winter and Sweet Potato Production .....               | 5   |
| Field Crop Prices .....                                | 6-7 |

## FIELD CROP ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

| Crop                      | Area Planted |                  | Area Harvested |                  | Yield Per Acre |        |                  | Production |           |                  |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------------|
|                           | 1998         | 1999<br>Forecast | 1998           | 1999<br>Forecast | Unit           | 1998   | 1999<br>Forecast | Unit       | 1998      | 1999<br>Forecast |
|                           | 1,000 Acres  |                  |                |                  |                |        |                  |            | Thousands |                  |
| CALIFORNIA                |              |                  |                |                  |                |        |                  |            |           |                  |
| Wheat, Winter <u>1/</u>   | 500.0        | 500.0            | 380.0          | 370.0            | Tons           | 1.80   | 2.34             | Tons       | 684.0     | 865.8            |
| Wheat, Durum              | 180.0        | 90.0             | 175.0          | 85.0             | Tons           | 2.70   | 3.15             | Tons       | 472.5     | 267.8            |
| Oats <u>1/</u>            | 320.0        | 275.0            | 30.0           | 30.0             | Tons           | 1.20   | 1.36             | Tons       | 36.0      | 40.8             |
| Barley <u>1/</u>          | 170.0        | 170.0            | 125.0          | 125.0            | Tons           | 1.44   | 1.54             | Tons       | 180.0     | 192.0            |
| Corn, All                 | 600.0        | 550.0            | ---            | ---              | Tons           | ---    | ---              | Tons       | ---       | ---              |
| For Grain                 | ---          | ---              | 245.0          | 205.0            | Tons           | 4.48   | 4.62             | Tons       | 1,097.6   | 947.1            |
| For Silage                | ---          | ---              | 350.0          | 340.0            | Tons           | 25.00  | 26.00            | Tons       | 8,750.0   | 8,840.0          |
| Rice, All                 | 480.0        | 540.0            | 478.0          | 535.0            | Cwt.           | 68.40  | 72.60            | Cwt.       | 32,698.0  | 38,850.0         |
| Long                      | 9.0          | 5.0              | 9.0            | 5.0              | Cwt.           | 59.70  | 68.00            | Cwt.       | 537.0     | 340.0            |
| Medium                    | 435.0        | 475.0            | 433.0          | 470.0            | Cwt.           | 69.90  | 73.00            | Cwt.       | 30,267.0  | 34,310.0         |
| Short                     | 36.0         | 60.0             | 36.0           | 60.0             | Cwt.           | 52.60  | 70.00            | Cwt.       | 1,894.0   | 4,200.0          |
| Cotton, All <u>2/</u>     | 850.0        | 850.0            | 800.0          | 844.0            | Lbs.           | 899.00 | 1,248.00         | Bales      | 1,498.8   | 2,195.0          |
| Upland                    | 650.0        | 610.0            | 620.0          | 605.0            | Lbs.           | 887.00 | 1,250.00         | Bales      | 1,146.0   | 1,575.0          |
| American-Pima             | 200.0        | 240.0            | 180.0          | 239.0            | Lbs.           | 941.00 | 1,245.00         | Bales      | 352.8     | 620.0            |
| Cottonseed                | ---          | ---              | ---            | ---              | Tons           | ---    | ---              | Tons       | 544.0     | 797.0            |
| Sugar Beets <u>3/</u>     | 101.0        | 112.0            | 99.0           | 108.0            | Tons           | 27.50  | 30.90            | Tons       | 2,723.0   | 3,337.0          |
| Beans, Dry, All <u>4/</u> | 110.0        | 135.0            | 105.0          | 132.0            | Cwt.           | 14.80  | 19.70            | Cwt.       | 1,554.0   | 2,600.0          |
| Hay, All                  | ---          | ---              | 1,630.0        | 1,570.0          | Tons           | 5.25   | 5.39             | Tons       | 8,554.0   | 8,462.0          |
| Alfalfa                   | ---          | ---              | 1,050.0        | 1,030.0          | Tons           | 6.60   | 6.80             | Tons       | 6,930.0   | 7,004.0          |
| Other                     | ---          | ---              | 580.0          | 540.0            | Tons           | 2.80   | 2.70             | Tons       | 1,624.0   | 1,458.0          |
| UNITED STATES             |              |                  |                |                  |                |        |                  |            |           |                  |
| Wheat, Winter <u>1/</u>   | 46,449.0     | 43,431.0         | 40,126.0       | 35,572.0         | Tons           | 1.41   | 1.43             | Tons       | 56,422.0  | 50,999.7         |
| Wheat, Durum              | 3,805.0      | 4,035.0          | 3,728.0        | 3,569.0          | Tons           | 1.11   | 0.83             | Tons       | 4,143.6   | 2,979.7          |
| Oats <u>1/</u>            | 4,892.0      | 4,670.0          | 2,755.0        | 2,453.0          | Tons           | 0.96   | 0.95             | Tons       | 2,655.7   | 2,339.5          |
| Barley <u>1/</u>          | 6,337.0      | 5,223.0          | 5,864.0        | 4,758.0          | Tons           | 1.44   | 1.42             | Tons       | 8,451.0   | 6,764.5          |
| Corn, All                 | 80,165.0     | 77,431.0         | ---            | ---              | Tons           | ---    | ---              | Tons       | ---       | ---              |
| For Grain                 | ---          | ---              | 72,589.0       | 70,537.0         | Tons           | 3.76   | 3.75             | Tons       | 273,243.2 | 264,245.4        |
| For Silage                | ---          | ---              | 5,913.0        | 6,062.0          | Tons           | 16.10  | 15.90            | Tons       | 95,479.0  | 96,169.0         |
| Rice, All                 | 3,345.0      | 3,581.0          | 3,317.0        | 3,562.0          | Cwt.           | 56.69  | 59.08            | Cwt.       | 188,051.0 | 210,458.0        |
| Long                      | 2,629.0      | 2,751.0          | 2,608.0        | 2,738.0          | Cwt.           | 54.30  | 56.29            | Cwt.       | 141,624.0 | 154,134.0        |
| Medium                    | 678.0        | 768.0            | 671.0          | 762.0            | Cwt.           | 66.25  | 68.24            | Cwt.       | 44,453.0  | 52,000.0         |
| Short                     | 38.0         | 62.0             | 38.0           | 62.0             | Cwt.           | 51.95  | 69.74            | Cwt.       | 1,974.0   | 4,324.0          |
| Cotton, All <u>2/</u>     | 13,392.5     | 14,855.0         | 10,683.6       | 13,381.0         | Lbs.           | 625.00 | 608.00           | Bales      | 13,918.2  | 16,952.9         |
| Upland                    | 13,064.3     | 14,565.0         | 10,448.8       | 13,093.0         | Lbs.           | 619.00 | 596.00           | Bales      | 13,475.9  | 16,257.4         |
| American-Pima             | 328.2        | 290.0            | 234.8          | 288.0            | Lbs.           | 904.00 | 1,159.00         | Bales      | 442.3     | 695.5            |
| Cottonseed                | ---          | ---              | ---            | ---              | Tons           | ---    | ---              | Tons       | 5,365.4   | 6,422.4          |
| Sugar Beets <u>3/</u>     | 1,497.8      | 1,562.7          | 1,450.7        | 1,527.1          | Tons           | 22.40  | 21.80            | Tons       | 32,499.0  | 33,319.0         |
| Beans, Dry, All <u>4/</u> | 2,014.1      | 2,023.0          | 1,917.7        | 18,770.0         | Cwt.           | 15.86  | 17.70            | Cwt.       | 30,418.0  | 33,230.0         |
| Hay, All                  | ---          | ---              | 60,076.0       | 63,160.0         | Tons           | 2.53   | 2.52             | Tons       | 151,780.0 | 159,077.0        |
| Alfalfa                   | ---          | ---              | 23,672.0       | 23,985.0         | Tons           | 3.48   | 3.50             | Tons       | 82,310.0  | 83,924.0         |
| Other                     | ---          | ---              | 36,404.0       | 39,175.0         | Tons           | 1.91   | 1.92             | Tons       | 69,470.0  | 75,153.0         |

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall. 2/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480 pound net-weight bales. 3/ Relates to year of intended harvest except for over-wintered spring planted beets. 4/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

## COTTON ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION

California's 1999 Upland cotton production is forecast at 1.58 million bales as of January 1, 2 percent above the December forecast and 37 percent above last year. This is based on 605 thousand acres for harvest with an average yield of 1,250 pounds per acre, down 2 percent from last month.

California's 1999 American Pima cotton production is forecast at 620 thousand bales, 76 percent above last year's crop. The 240 thousand acres for harvest increased 20 percent from last year. Planting in the San Joaquin Valley began in late March, but made very little progress until mid-April. The delay in progress was due to the persistent cool, damp weather which kept soil temperatures below the optimal level for planting. However, weather conditions were ideal for virtually the entire harvest season. The harvest was nearly complete by mid-December and some growers picked a third time in order to get the last few late-opening bolls.



U.S. Upland cotton production for 1999 is estimated at 16.3 million bales, 21 percent above the 1998 output. Acreage harvested, at 13.1 million, was 25 percent above 1998. The yield was 596 pounds, 4 percent below the 1998 crop.

U.S. American Pima production is forecast at 695.5 thousand bales, up 57 percent from the 442.3 bales produced in 1998. This is the largest crop on record. The U.S. yield is forecast at 1,159 pounds per harvested acre, 103 pounds above the previous record high yield set in 1997.

## HAY STOCKS

Stocks of all hay on California farms as of December 1, 1999 totaled 2.29 million tons. This was down 30 percent from the 3,246 million tons on hand a year earlier. United States hay stocks on farms as of December 1, 1999 were 109 million tons. This was 3 percent below the 112 million tons on farms on December 1, 1998.

### HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

| State         | May 1      |        | December 1 |         |
|---------------|------------|--------|------------|---------|
|               | 1998       | 1999   | 1998       | 1999    |
|               | 1,000 Tons |        |            |         |
| California    | 420        | 428    | 3,246      | 2,285   |
| Arizona       | 34         | 28     | 177        | 184     |
| Nevada        | 151        | 233    | 857        | 867     |
| Oregon        | 621        | 135    | 2,159      | 2,245   |
| Utah          | 435        | 485    | 1,695      | 1,540   |
| United States | 21,827     | 24,795 | 111,839    | 108,668 |

## WINTER AND DURUM WHEAT SEEDING

California farmers are expected to seed 500 thousand acres to *winter wheat* for the 2000 crop. This is unchanged from the 1999 crop. *Durum wheat* is expected to be seeded on 80.0 thousand acres, 11 percent below the 90.0 thousand acres seeded in 1999. In the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, seeding progressed rapidly during October and November. Seeding began in the Imperial Valley in late November and will continue into March as the winter vegetable harvest is finished.

The U.S. *winter wheat* seeded area for 2000 is expected to total 42.9 million acres, down 1 percent from 1999. This is the smallest area since 1972. Arizona farmers expect to seed 90.0 thousand acres to *Durum wheat*, which is a 20 percent increase from the 1999 crop. Durum wheat seeding for other states will be published in "Prospective Plantings," which will be released March 31, 2000.



## WINTER AND DURUM WHEAT SEEDING

| Area                | 1998        | 1999   | 2000      | <u>2000</u><br>1999 |
|---------------------|-------------|--------|-----------|---------------------|
|                     | 1,000 Acres |        |           | Percent             |
| <b>WINTER WHEAT</b> |             |        |           |                     |
| California          | 500         | 500    | 500       | 100                 |
| United States       | 46,449      | 43,431 | 42,916    | 99                  |
| <b>DURUM WHEAT</b>  |             |        |           |                     |
| California          | 180         | 90     | 80        | 89                  |
| Arizona             | 145         | 75     | 90        | 120                 |
| United States       | 3,805       | 4,035  | <u>1/</u> | <u>1/</u>           |

1/ To be published in "Prospective Plantings" on March 31, 2000.

## CALIFORNIA RICE CROP UP 19 PERCENT

California farmers produced 38.9 million cwt. of rice in 1999. This was 19 percent above the 32.7 million cwt. produced in 1998. The 1999 crop included 340 thousand cwt. of long grain rice, down 37 percent from the 537 thousand cwt. produced in 1998. Medium grain production totaled 34.3 million cwt., up 13 percent from the 1998 crop. Short grain production was 4.20 thousand cwt., 122 percent above the previous year. The overall yield of 7,260 pounds per acre was 6 percent above 1998.

United States 1999 rice production is estimated at 210 million cwt., up 12 percent from 1998. The 1999 production is the highest on record. The previous record production was set in 1994 with 198 million cwt. Growers harvested 3.56 million acres in 1999. This was 7 percent above the 3.32 million acres harvested in 1998. Yields averaged 5,908 pounds per acre in 1999, 4 percent above the previous year's average of 5,669 pounds.

## CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 1 ROUGH RICE STOCKS

California rough rice stocks in all positions on December 1 totaled 29.3 million cwt., up 7 percent from last year. Warehouses accounted for 24.6 million cwt. of the total rough rice stored. Estimates of on-farm rough rice stocks and stocks in mill storage were not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

## CALIFORNIA OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS

| Month  | Season     |         |         |
|--|------------|---------|---------|
|  | 1997-98    | 1998-99 | 1999-00 |
|  | 1,000 Cwt. |         |         |
| October 1 ( <i>Carryover</i> ) <sup>1/</sup> | 4,515      | 4,747   | 1,412   |
| December 1                                   | 34,664     | 27,337  | 29,294  |
| March 1                                      | 23,670     | 15,596  |         |
| August 1                                     | 11,697     | 4,112   |         |

<sup>1/</sup> Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

## DECEMBER 1 ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS

| Type of Rice                            | 1998          | 1999          |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|   | 1,000 Cwt.    |               |
| <b>ROUGH RICE</b>                       |               |               |
| Long Grain                              | <sup>1/</sup> | <sup>1/</sup> |
| Medium Grain                            | 24,778        | 25,551        |
| Short Grain                             | <sup>1/</sup> | <sup>1/</sup> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | 27,337        | 29,294        |
| <b>MILLED RICE</b>                      |               |               |
| <b><u>Whole Kernels (Head Rice)</u></b> |               |               |
| Long Grain                              | 22            | 41            |
| Medium Grain                            | 806           | 535           |
| Short Grain                             | <u>25</u>     | <u>52</u>     |
| Total                                   | 853           | 628           |
| <b><u>Broken Kernels</u></b>            |               |               |
| Second Heads <sup>2/</sup>              | 121           | 388           |
| Screenings                              | -----         | -----         |
| Brewers                                 | <u>23</u>     | <u>255</u>    |
| Total                                   | 144           | 643           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | 997           | 1,271         |

<sup>1/</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes screenings.

## GRAIN STOCKS

Stocks of wheat in California on December 1, 1999 totaled 579 thousand tons, 13 percent below the 663 thousand tons on hand a year earlier. U.S. stocks of all wheat, at 56.4 million tons, were down 1 percent from the 56.9 million tons on hand December 1, 1998.

Barley stocks in California on December 1, 1999 totaled 64.2 thousand tons, 2 percent below a year earlier. U.S. barley stocks, at 5.49 million tons, were 16 percent below the December 1, 1998 total.

Off-farm stocks of corn in California totaled 339 thousand tons on December 1, 1999. This was 10 percent below a year earlier. U.S. stocks of corn in all positions totaled 225 million tons.

## GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

| Grain and Position        | Dec. 1, 1998   | Sept. 1, 1999  | Dec. 1, 1999   |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                           | Tons           |                |                |
| <b>ALL WHEAT</b>          |                |                |                |
| California                |                |                |                |
| On-Farm                   | 69,000         | 60,000         | 21,000         |
| Off-Farm <sup>1/</sup>    | <u>594,150</u> | <u>756,240</u> | <u>557,820</u> |
| Total                     | 663,150        | 816,240        | 578,820        |
| U.S. Total                | 56,870,430     | 73,351,290     | 56,369,520     |
| <b>BARLEY</b>             |                |                |                |
| California                |                |                |                |
| Off-Farm <sup>1/ 2/</sup> | 65,496         | 66,024         | 64,224         |
| U.S. Total                | 6,492,840      | 7,085,880      | 5,486,304      |
| <b>OATS</b>               |                |                |                |
| California                |                |                |                |
| Off Farm <sup>1/ 2/</sup> | 3,984          | 2,640          | 1,936          |
| U.S. Total                | 2,293,360      | 2,375,216      | 2,177,168      |
| <b>CORN</b>               |                |                |                |
| California                |                |                |                |
| Off-Farm <sup>1/ 2/</sup> | 376,348        | 94,724         | 339,192        |
| U.S. Total                | 225,451,688    | 50,035,356     | 224,556,080    |
| <b>SORGHUM GRAIN</b>      |                |                |                |
| California                |                |                |                |
| Off-Farm <sup>1/ 2/</sup> | 7,084          | <sup>3/</sup>  | 6,188          |
| U.S. Total                | 9,388,848      | 1,824,564      | 9,759,792      |

<sup>1/</sup> Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

<sup>2/</sup> California on-farm stocks and total stocks for barley, corn, oats and sorghum are included in United States totals.

<sup>3/</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

## FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND JANUARY 1 STOCKS

California's fall potato stocks were estimated at 2.50 million cwt. as of January 1, 2000, a 4 percent increase from last year. The amount in storage on January 1 represents 62 percent of the production compared to 65 percent a year ago.

The 15 major potato states held 238 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from the last two years. Storage accounted for 57 percent of 1999 fall production, 1 percent below last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 11 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody) and 83 percent russet; with more russets, and fewer whites than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 states from the start of harvest to January 1, 2000 was a record high 182 million cwt., up 3 percent from the same period last year and slightly above the previous record high in 1996. December's disappearance set a new record 36.2 million cwt., 4 percent more than a year ago. Shrink and loss jumped to 21.1 million cwt. this season, down 3 percent from 1998, but 22 percent above two years ago. December losses, at 3.89 million cwt., reflect a heavy cleanup in the north-central states.

Processors used 90.3 million cwt. of 1999 crop potatoes so far this season, up fractionally from a year ago and 8 percent above two years ago. December usage was 15.7 million cwt., down 1 percent from last year's record high, but 3 percent above 1997.

Eastern states stored 16.8 million cwt. of potatoes on January 1, up 3 percent from last year, but 7 percent below 1998. Maine's stocks were up 4 percent, New York's storage gained 13 percent, but Pennsylvania's stocks declined 20 percent.

Central states accounted for 50.9 million cwt. of potato stocks this January, down 12 percent from last year and 6 percent lower than two years ago. Minnesota's stocks dropped 29 percent and North Dakota fell 26 percent from last year. Michigan was off 5 percent and Ohio slipped 20 percent. Wisconsin gained 5 percent and Nebraska stored 11 percent more potatoes than last year.

Western states held 170 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2000, down 1 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below two years ago. Colorado and Montana were up 5 percent each and Oregon stored 17 percent more potatoes this year than last. Idaho's stocks were off 3 percent and Washington's were down 6 percent.

## FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND JANUARY 1 STOCKS

| State          | Crop of 1998 |                              |                          | Crop of 1999 |                              |                              |                          |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                | Production   | Total Stocks<br>Jan. 1, 1999 | Percent of<br>Production | Production   | Total Stocks<br>Dec. 1, 1999 | Total Stocks<br>Jan. 1, 2000 | Percent of<br>Production |
|                | 1,000 Cwt.   |                              |                          | 1,000 Cwt.   |                              |                              |                          |
| California     | 3,708        | 2,400                        | 65                       | 4,005        | 3,200                        | 2,500                        | 62                       |
| Colorado       | 25,360       | 16,500                       | 65                       | 25,762       | 19,500                       | 17,300                       | 67                       |
| Idaho          | 138,000      | 89,000                       | 64                       | 133,330      | 96,000                       | 86,000                       | 65                       |
| Maine          | 18,060       | 12,500                       | 69                       | 17,813       | 14,500                       | 13,000                       | 73                       |
| Michigan       | 14,648       | 7,500                        | 51                       | 14,963       | 8,800                        | 7,100                        | 47                       |
| Minnesota      | 21,170       | 12,000                       | 57                       | 18,020       | 10,000                       | 8,500                        | 47                       |
| Montana        | 3,180        | 2,980                        | 94                       | 3,325        | 3,220                        | 3,120                        | 94                       |
| Nebraska       | 8,175        | 3,900                        | 48                       | 8,904        | 5,300                        | 4,320                        | 49                       |
| New York       | 7,290        | 2,300                        | 32                       | 6,758        | 3,700                        | 2,600                        | 38                       |
| North Dakota   | 28,670       | 17,500                       | 61                       | 26,400       | 16,500                       | 13,000                       | 49                       |
| Ohio           | 1,200        | 150                          | 13                       | 987          | 250                          | 120                          | 12                       |
| Oregon         | 26,229       | 17,500                       | 67                       | 28,020       | 22,800                       | 20,500                       | 73                       |
| Pennsylvania   | 3,360        | 1,500                        | 45                       | 3,080        | 1,600                        | 1,200                        | 39                       |
| Washington     | 93,225       | 43,500                       | 47                       | 95,200       | 48,000                       | 41,000                       | 43                       |
| Wisconsin      | 30,895       | 17,000                       | 55                       | 34,000       | 21,000                       | 17,900                       | 53                       |
| 15-STATE TOTAL | 423,170      | 246,230                      | 58                       | 420,567      | 274,370                      | 238,160                      | 57                       |

### WINTER POTATO PRODUCTION

Winter potato production for California was forecast at 3.00 million cwt., 36 percent above last year's crop. Harvested acreage of 10.0 thousand acres is up 18 percent and yields are estimated to be 15 percent above last year's 260 cwt. per acre. The overall growing season was relatively good. Most of the winter crops did not experience an early frost or any serious diseases during the season.

Nationally, production of winter potatoes in 2000 is forecast at 4.60 million cwt. This is up 13 percent from 1999 and 54 percent above 1998. Area for harvest is estimated at 18,000 acres, up 1 percent from a year ago and 20 percent above two years ago. The average yield is projected to be 256 cwt. per acre, 27 cwt. above last year.

### WINTER POTATO PRODUCTION

| State      | Area Planted |                     | Area Harvested |                     | Yield Per Acre |                     | Production |       |                     |
|------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|-------|---------------------|
|            | 1999         | 2000<br>Indications | 1999           | 2000<br>Indications | 1999           | 2000<br>Indications | 1998       | 1999  | 2000<br>Indications |
|            | 1,000 Acres  |                     |                |                     | Cwt.           |                     | 1,000 Cwt. |       |                     |
| California | 8.5          | 10.0                | 8.5            | 10.0                | 260            | 300                 | 1,540      | 2,210 | 3,000               |
| Florida    | 9.6          | 8.2                 | 9.3            | 8.0                 | 200            | 200                 | 1,440      | 1,860 | 1,600               |
| TOTAL      | 18.1         | 18.2                | 17.8           | 18.0                | 229            | 256                 | 2,980      | 4,070 | 4,600               |

### SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION

California sweet potato production for 1999 was estimated at 2.33 million cwt., 9 percent above last year's crop. Growers harvested 9.50 thousand acres in 1999 compared to 9.70 thousand acres in 1998. The yield of 245 cwt. per acre is 11 percent above the previous year.

Nationally, production of sweet potatoes in 1999 fell 3 percent from last year to 12.0 million cwt. and was 10 percent below 1997. Growers harvested 82.9 thousand acres, down 1 percent from last year. The average yield of 145 cwt. per acre fell 3 cwt. Hurricane Floyd flooded many fields in the Carolinas, causing heavy losses.

### SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION

| State          | Area Planted |      | Area Harvested |      | Yield Per Acre |      | Production |        |
|----------------|--------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|------------|--------|
|                | 1998         | 1999 | 1998           | 1999 | 1998           | 1999 | 1998       | 1999   |
|                | 1,000 Acres  |      |                |      | Cwt.           |      | 1,000 Cwt. |        |
| Alabama        | 3.8          | 3.3  | 3.7            | 3.2  | 170            | 132  | 629        | 422    |
| California     | 9.7          | 9.5  | 9.7            | 9.5  | 220            | 245  | 2,134      | 2,328  |
| Georgia        | 0.8          | 0.7  | 0.7            | 0.6  | 100            | 100  | 70         | 60     |
| Louisiana      | 21.0         | 24.0 | 20.0           | 23.0 | 110            | 150  | 2,200      | 3,450  |
| Mississippi    | 9.8          | 10.5 | 9.7            | 10.3 | 140            | 140  | 1,358      | 1,442  |
| New Jersey     | 1.1          | 1.0  | 1.0            | 1.0  | 105            | 100  | 105        | 100    |
| North Carolina | 33.0         | 37.0 | 32.0           | 29.0 | 170            | 130  | 5,440      | 3,770  |
| South Carolina | 1.1          | 1.2  | 0.9            | 0.5  | 90             | 95   | 81         | 48     |
| Texas          | 6.4          | 5.6  | 5.6            | 5.3  | 45             | 50   | 252        | 265    |
| Virginia       | 0.5          | 0.5  | 0.5            | 0.5  | 225            | 190  | 113        | 95     |
| UNITED STATES  | 87.2         | 93.3 | 83.8           | 82.9 | 148            | 145  | 12,382     | 11,980 |

## CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - DECEMBER 1999

Prices received by California farmers at mid-December were above November for barley, dry edible beans, and alfalfa hay. All hay and hay other than alfalfa remained the same as the previous month. All potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, and cottonseed were below the previous month. Mid-December prices for wheat and Upland cotton lint were not published due to possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for all hay and alfalfa hay. Dry edible beans, all potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, hay other than alfalfa, and cottonseed were below December 1998's level.

## U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS TWO POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 91 based on 1990-92=100, down two points (2.2 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for milk, soybeans, wheat, and oranges more than offset price increases for lettuce, hogs, calves, and corn. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also effect the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, grapes, soybeans, and corn more than offset the relatively higher marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes account for about one-half point of the December index decrease.

Compared with December 1998, the All Farm Products Index was seven points (7.1 percent) lower. Milk, cotton, soybeans, and corn price decreases from December 1998 more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, lettuce, and apples.

The December All Crops Index, at 88, was down 1.1 percent from November and 12 percent below December 1998. Since November, decreases in oilseed, food grains, fruits, nuts, and cotton prices more than offset price increases for vegetables, tobacco, feed grains, and hay.

The December Food Grains Index, at 83, was down 6.7 percent from the previous month and 18 percent below December 1998. The December all wheat price, at \$2.43 per cwt., was down 23 cents from the November price and 43 cents below December 1998.

The December Feed Grains and Hay Index was 78, up 1.3 percent from last month, but 12 percent below December 1998. The corn price, at \$3.07 per cwt., was up three cents from November, but 50 cents below the December 1998 price. The all hay price, at \$71.10 per ton, was down \$2.90 from last month and \$6.40 below December 1998. Alfalfa hay prices were down from last month, but other hay prices were up.

The December Cotton Index, at 72, was down 2.7 percent from November and 28 percent below December 1998. The cotton price, at 43.6 cents per pound, was down 1.1 cents from November. Cottonseed prices were up from last month, but well below last year.

## AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

| Commodity             | Unit | CALIFORNIA |           |               | UNITED STATES |           |               |
|-----------------------|------|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
|                       |      | Dec. 1998  | Nov. 1999 | Dec. 15, 1999 | Dec. 1998     | Nov. 1999 | Dec. 15, 1999 |
|                       |      | Dollars    |           |               |               |           |               |
| Corn 2/               | Cwt. | ---        | ---       | ---           | 3.57          | 3.04      | 3.07          |
| Wheat 2/              | Cwt. | 3/         | 3/        | 3/            | 4.77          | 4.43      | 4.05          |
| Oats 2/               | Cwt. | ---        | ---       | ---           | 3.72          | 3.47      | 3.53          |
| Barley 2/             | Cwt. | 3/         | 5.17      | 5.21          | 4.23          | 4.48      | 4.46          |
| Sorghum Grain 2/      | Cwt. | ---        | ---       | ---           | 2.94          | 2.58      | 2.60          |
| Rice 2/               | Cwt. | ---        | ---       | ---           | 9.06          | 6.11      | 6.14          |
| Dry Edible Beans 2/   | Cwt. | 37.80      | 27.20     | 27.90         | 19.90         | 17.30     | 15.70         |
| All Potatoes 4/       | Cwt. | 11.70      | 11.10     | 10.10         | 5.30          | 5.51      | 5.65          |
| Winter                | Cwt. | 20.30      | 18.10     | 16.50         | ---           | ---       | ---           |
| Spring                | Cwt. | ---        | ---       | ---           | ---           | ---       | ---           |
| Summer                | Cwt. | ---        | ---       | ---           | ---           | ---       | ---           |
| Fall                  | Cwt. | 7.30       | 7.25      | 6.65          | ---           | ---       | ---           |
| All Hay, Baled        | Ton  | 79.00      | 81.00     | 81.00         | 77.50         | 74.00     | 71.10         |
| Alfalfa Hay, Baled    | Ton  | 79.00      | 83.00     | 84.00         | 79.70         | 77.30     | 73.20         |
| Other Hay, Baled      | Ton  | 77.00      | 61.00     | 61.00         | 71.10         | 64.80     | 65.90         |
| Upland Cotton Lint 2/ | Lb.  | 0.733      | 0.562     | 3/            | 0.606         | 0.447     | 0.436         |
| Cottonseed            | Ton  | 179.00     | 141.00    | 135.00        | 138.00        | 94.00     | 99.00         |

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Not Published due to possible disclosure.

4/ Monthly average.

**U.S. INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS**

| Index   | 1910-14 = 100 |                 |           | 1990-92 = 100 |              |           |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
|   | Dec. 1998     | Nov. 1999       | Dec. 1999 | Dec. 1998     | Nov. 1999    | Dec. 1999 |
| Prices Received - Unadjusted  |               |                 |           |               |              |           |
| All Farm Products   | 625           | 591 <u>1/</u>   | 579       | 98            | 93           | 91        |
| All Crops   | 492           | 440 <u>1/</u>   | 436       | 100           | 89           | 88        |
| Food Grains   | 321           | 283 <u>1/</u>   | 263       | 101           | 89 <u>1/</u> | 83        |
| Feed Grains and Hay   | 319           | 274 <u>1/</u>   | 279       | 89            | 77           | 78        |
| Cotton  | 512           | 378 <u>1/</u>   | 369       | 100           | 74 <u>1/</u> | 72        |
| Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans   | 479           | 474 <u>1/</u>   | 475       | 95            | 94 <u>1/</u> | 94        |
| Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,<br>Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates <u>2/</u> | 1,514         | 1,558 <u>1/</u> | 1,563     | 114           | 117          | 117       |
| Parity Ratio <u>3/</u>  | 41            | 38              | 37        | 86            | 79           | 78        |

1/ Revised.

2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.

3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.